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Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable,
Biocompatible Microparticles Containing a Biologically
Active Agent

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method for preparing biodegradable, biocompatible microparticles. A first phase is prepared that includes a biodegradable, biocompatible polymeric encapsulating binder, and an active agent having limited water solubility dissolved or dispersed in a solvent. An aqueous second phase is prepared. The first and second phases are combined to form an emulsion in which the first phase is discontinuous and the second phase is continuous. The two phases are separated. The discontinuous first phase is washed with water, or an aqueous solution of water and a solvent for residual solvent in the first phase, to reduce the level of residual solvent in the microparticles to less than about 2% by weight of the microparticles. Also disclosed are a microencapsulated drug prepared by the method for preparing biodegradable, biocompatible microparticles, and a pharmaceutical composition that includes biodegradable and biocompatible microparticles in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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